

Committee Notes – Joint Meeting

Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID

April 9, 2015

Salvation Army The Way In

Attendance: **HED Committee Members present:** John Tronson, Frank Babitch, Chad Lewis, Derrick Malec, Carol Massie. . Not present: Monica Yamada. **SVBID Committee Members present:** Fabio Conti, Anthony Bell. Not present: Elizabeth McDonald, Fred Rosenthal. **Liaisons:** Joe Salazar, Bill Farrar, John Adams, Steve Seyler, Andrews International. Representative of LA County Sheriff. Sgt. Osbaldo Ramos, Captain Pete Zarcone, LAPD. **Staff:** Kerry Morrison, Joseph Mariani. **Guests:** Mike Harkins, Andrews International; Karen Weiner, The Salvation Army.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by John Tronson at 10:08 a.m.
- II. Public Comment: There was no public comment
- III. Meeting Notes: The committee reviewed the meeting notes from their March 12, 2015 meeting.
- IV. Reports

A. Report from Andrews International: Steve Seyler presented the highlights from the report covering the period March 2, 2015 through March 29, 2015. He highlighted some of the significant outreach efforts undertaken by the officers, and some key arrests. One in particular involved a tip provided to BID security that a Spiderman character at Hollywood & Highland was carrying a gun. He had also been passing out flyers critical of the President. President Obama was in town for the Jimmy Kimmel show, so Steve contacted LAPD, who contacted the Secret Service. The man was arrested and had three outstanding warrants.

B. Report from LAPD: LAPD reported that over the last year, violent crime is up citywide 28 percent. (This number is slightly less in Hollywood, 23 percent.) There is speculation that legislative changes (notably AB 109 and Prop 47) are having an impact insofar as few people are being incarcerated, and this may be impacting local crime trends. He reviewed some upcoming events that will involve Department resources, including the Hollywood Half Marathon, the West Hollywood Half Marathon, and the 100 year anniversary of the Armenia Genocide which will involve a march that will start and stop at the Turkish Consulate (April 24). Sgt Ramos thanks Andrews International for their professionalism in assisting their officers with an incident at Sunset and Ivar during the past month. He also indicated that the slammer van is being used regularly at night to pick up overly intoxicated pedestrians coming out of the clubs.

Morrison used this opportunity to share images from the Midnite Walk that was conducted on March 14. Eight business leaders participated, representing the Chamber and the BID. The area around Las Palmas and Hollywood remains particularly impacted with seven clubs and restaurants in that zone. LAPD was commended for their effectiveness in keeping the area under control, and there is a big emphasis on traffic control and sidewalk management.

C. Report from LA Sheriff's Department: The deputy representing Sgt. Hoffman gave a brief report and indicated that there are no particular trends to report at this time, other than the fact that there remains an issues with sleepers staying on trains and impacting the ability of passengers to use the seats.

D. Staff report: Morrison took a few moments to summarize a list of stakeholder requests that came into the BID office in the past month. She wanted to give the committee a sense of the challenges that are presented to staff and how many issues are not easily addressed. In the past month, the following occurred:

- Fenced lot around courthouse is porous and leads to complaints about transients camping in parking lot. West wall of adjacent property has been tagged twice – and state will not allow BID to paint out the wall without having proof of insurance.
- Sharkey's alley continues to pose problems and BID arranged for a meeting of all the neighbors to encourage them to work together around a solution to gate the alley.
- Red Line Tour company called to complain about transients impacting their tour business and interfering with their walking tours on Hollywood Blvd.
- Property owner at Gower/Hollywood expressed concern about consistent camping out of transients in front of property. Intimidating and aggressive behaviors to passersby. Recent arrests were made of a couple of the individuals but they are back. BID will be trimming the trees next week to remove shade benefits.
- Kress building continues to attract transients who hang out on ledge of building. Staff has been working for months to secure a trespass arrest authorization form to have a tool to deal with this. Form finally arrived yesterday.
- Suaya property manager concerned about transients hanging out near new restaurant Butchers & Barbers. Trespass form signed.
- Jack in the Box calling BID Patrol for disproportionate service needs. Meeting has been set up with regional manager, security manager, LAPD and BID later this month.

V. New Business

A. Dispatcher Discussion: Morrison summarized a memo she had prepared for the two chairs of the Security Committee outlining the need for a professional dispatcher for the BID headquarters at Hollywood & Highland. She documented the concerns that BID officers and management have expressed about officer safety, especially given the year-by-year increase in calls for service since 2007, and the increase in violent encounters on the streets. Currently dispatch is handled by an administrative assistant. The cost would be \$38,000 and would be shared between the two BIDs (66 percent Hollywood, 34 percent Sunset). This can fit within the existing budget. The committee agreed that this would be a worthwhile investment and this issue will be taken to both Boards next week.

B. Las Palmas camera addition: Joe Mariani, at the request of the committee, had researched the cost of adding another camera at the intersection of Hollywood & Las Palmas. This is a key area that LAPD has identified as beneficial for a camera. The cost will be approximately \$20,000 and the camera could be installed on a DOT pole, thus maximizing visibility of the camera. There was some discussion as to whether it should be at the SW or NW corner. Mariani will look into that; it may have something to do with proximity to a power source. This issue will be taken to the Hollywood Board next week.

VI. Old Business

A. SB 608 Right to Rest Act: Morrison distributed letters that were sent to the Senate Committee that heard the Right to Rest Act proposed legislation this week. She briefed the board on the statewide coalition that had quickly formed about BIDs to oppose this bill. Senator Liu withdrew the bill before it came for a vote this past Tuesday and plans to work on amendments. Morrison indicated that she and two other BID execs will be meeting with the Senator to discuss practical concerns about the bill next week.

VII. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2015.

VIII. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.